13

13

HIS MAIESTIES DECLARATION

AND

Manifestation to all His Souldiers, by Himselfe declared in the Head of His Army, for direction in their marching, that the goods of no inhabitants be despoiled, or unjustly pillaged, but that due satisfaction be given for meat, or drinke, or whatsoever shall be convenient and necessary for them.

Also,

His MAJESTIES Speech, and Protestation, made in the head of His Army, between *Stafford* and *Wellington*, Sept. 19. 1642. After the reading of His Orders.

Together with

His MAJESTIES Speech to the Gentlemen, Clergie, Free-holders, and Inhabitants of the County of *Oxon*, at *Oxford*, *Novemb.* 2. 1642.

And

A Prayer of thanksgiving for his Majesties *late victory over the* Rebels.

Printed *Ann. Dom. M. DC. XLII.*

His Majesties Declaration to all His Souldiers, by himselfe declared in the Head of His Army, *Octob.* 21.

Gentlemen,

I Know ye are not insensible of the many faire Letters of Treaty which have issued from Us to both Our Houses of Parliament, and the slight effect they have produced, notwithstanding they have been seconded with many vowes and reall protestations; in which God and men are called for witnesses, wherein We have ingaged the temporall and eternall happinesse of Us, and all Our royall Posterity; that Our determination tendeth to no other end then the whole Kingdoms happinesse, establishing the same flourishing Religion professed in the tranquill dayes of Q. Elizabeth, and confirmed by Our royall Father; likewise to maintain the Law, and Liberty of the Subject, with the just Priviledges of Parliament, which in all their Petitions hath been required, and by Us graciously heard, granted, and not beleeved, but most unreasonably suspected: What actions or action of Ours from the beginning of Our reigne till this present houre, should urge the cause of so inhumane and most impious a misbeliefe, We are yet to learne; and since (in all this time of trouble) We could not be informed, it may be feared We can never be instructed: the strange and disloyall causes which have forced Us from Our Throne of Peace and (as We thought) Security, to appeare in hostile manner in the bowels of Our owne Kingdome, a man of common reason cannot censure to be Ours; since he must conclude, that whosoever hath the victory, We are sure to be the looser. Ambition which fils the veines of great ones to be greater, must needs

be

be free from Us, ſince We are greateſt: envy or malice are as farre, ſince We have no competitor: We have proteſted in the word of a King, and called the ſearcher of all hearts to record, that We intend not the alteration of the true profeſſed and eſtabliſhed Proteſtant Religion, the Lawes of the Kingdome, the knowne Liberty of the Subject, the right and juſt priviledges of Parliament; and all this confirmed with ſuch imprecations as may urge beliefe in common men one toward another, although ſtrangers, and at the firſt ſight. If this be granted, We would know for what other cauſe then the ſafety of Our endangered Perſon, and the protection of Our Subjects, We have raiſed (with the love and free-will of Our people) this neceſſary guard about Us, onely putting Our Selfe into a poſture of defence againſt moſt imminent and active violence, and not (as ill pretences would inſtigate Our good Subjects) to wage warre againſt Our Parliament, who had their beeing what they are from Our Prerogative, without which they had not been (or at leaſt not had a Warrant) for continuance. Moreover, for the cleare underſtanding of Our reſolutions to maintaine peace, We may have the confidence and happineſſe to referre (againſt all malignity whatſoever) to Our former ſixteene yeares reigne, (too long to diſſemble Our nature) if in all this time We never cauſed the effuſion of one drop of bloud, it muſt needes be thought, that in Our riper judgement of government We ſhould never open ſuch iſſues as might drowne Us and Our Poſterity in them; but we are ſure to have no enemies, but in the defence of the true Proteſtant Profeſſion, the right of the eſtabliſhed Lawes, and for the preſervation of peace; and certainly all theſe muſt be all yours, as well as Our enemies. And to the end, that this preſent poſture wherein We are, ſhould not diſturbe you with the diſtempers of the times, the example of the two Houſes having made Us prepare for a

guard to Us and Our Childrens Perſons, We wiſh you to looke into the compoſition and conſtitution of it, and you will finde it ſo farre from the face or feare of Warre, that it ſerveth to ſecure you as well as Us from it, ſince you know Our choice is of the prime Gentry. And We further aſſure you, We never intended to uſe Forraigners, or diſaffected in Religion: and (that you may fully aſſure your ſelves of Our ſole dependency upon the love and ſervice of Our people, to live and die with them) We have armed you Our Subjects, which had been moſt irrationall, if We had ever intended to have uſed ſtrangers: And further you may perceive, that We receive none but ſuch as ſtand cleare in loyalty and Religion; for which reaſon you ſee We have cauſed the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy to be given them; and for the prevention of any innovated power over you, you ſhall have Us with you to governe you and protect you in peace, and to relieve you againſt all oppreſſions; for that (as We have formerly told you) muſt ariſe from ſome great violation, (which We hope God will prevent) and not from this forward preparation of Our Subjects: therefore let none of you be diſcouraged with vaine feares, if ſuch a Warre muſt follow, it will follow the Authors home to their own doores: and ſuch (by the confidence of Our Perſon with you) We aſſure Our Selfe you are not.

The diſcontented people, whoſe lives are but a continuall rumour and faction, have endeavoured to make Us and Our Army odious, by caſting many aſperſions and calumnies upon them, as I have received notice by aſſured intelligence, that you ſhould ſallie out of your ſeverall quarters, to plunder and pillage the houſes of knowne Proteſtants: We hope it is not ſo; and am the rather confident, in that the relation ſprung from thoſe who have taken liberty to vent moſt unbecoming language againſt Our Owne Perſon; notwithſtanding

ding We hold it moſt neceſſary to advertiſe you (ſince your hoſtility is in a righteous and religious cauſe) that you uſe no finiſter action; good cauſes never produce unrighteous effects, nor can truth be fortified with falſhood: Therefore We will and command you to march peaceably and quietly, as a defending party, not a provoking; deſpoile no mans goods, not in the leaſt degree: abuſe not their wives, or ſervants, or cattell, or what elſe ſhall appertain to them, leſt you make a breach in the Law, and Liberty of the Subject; (the cauſe you ſtand to defend:) defraud no man whereſoever you are quartered, but give ſatisfaction for what you have, that you may not weare a vizor before truth, but ſeeme like that truth you ſerve under: doe not plunder or pillage under the pretence of Papiſts houſes, till there be notice given, that they may legally, not riotouſly be examined and detected: avoid vaine and raſh ſwearing, exceſſive drinking and effeminacy, (by ſome eſteemed the property of a Souldier) but the ſhame and corruption of a good Chriſtian: be ſure you caſt an eye upon your cauſe, which invites you to a more ſanctified Rule; avoid all inward quarrels, and ſelfe-deſtroying mutiny; let the feare of God, the preſervation of a good conſcience, the contemplation and exerciſe of truth and true Religion be alwayes acceptable and received by you, that you may not feare the change of your mortality, ſince you have leſſe aſſurance to preſerve your lives now then ever you had. Officers, and you that have command, it ſhall become your charge ſo farre as in you lies, to ſee theſe obſervations maintained, and be your ſelves the examples, and We doubt not but in time the juſt God will direct and protect Us in all Our actions, and bring Our weary labours to a good concluſion; when all Our ſadneſſe ſhall be turned into joy, the ſubject poſſeſſe his free liberty uncontrolled, and the Kingdome continue in a firme peace for ever.

His Majesties Speech, and Protestation, made in the Head of His Army between Stafford and Wellington, the 19. of *September*, 1642. After the Reading of His Orders.

Gentlemen,

YOu have heard these Orders read: Tis your part in your severall places to observe them exactly: The time cannot be long before We come to Action, therefore you have the more reason to be carefull: and I must tell you, I shall be very severe in the punishing of those, of what condition soever, who transgresse these Instructions. I cannot suspect your Courage and Resolution; your Conscience and your Loyalty hath brought you hither, to fight for your Religion, your King, and the Lawes of the Land: you shall meet with no Enemies but Traytors, most of them Brownists, Anabaptists, and Atheists, such who desire to destroy both Church and State, and who have already condemned you to ruine, for being loyall to me. That you may see what use I meane to make of your valour, if it please God to bless it with successe, I have thought fit to publish my Resolution to you in a Protestation, which when you have heard me make, you will believe you cannot fight in a better quarrell, in which I promise to live and die with you.

I Do promise in the presence of Almighty God, and as I hope for his blessing and protection, That I will, to the utmost of my Power, defend and maintaine the true reformed Protestant Religion established in the Church of England, and by the grace of God in the same will live and die.

I desire to governe by the knowne Laws of the Land, and that the Liberty and Propriety of the Subject may be by them preserved with the same care as my own just Rights: and if it please God by his blessing upon this Army raised for my necessary defence, to preserve Mee from this Rebellion, I do solemnly, and faithfully promise, in the sight of God, to maintain the just Priviledges and Freedome of Parliament, and to govern by the known Laws of the Land, to my utmost power; and particularly to observe inviolably the Laws consented to by Mee this Parliament. In the meane while, if this time of warre, and the great necessity and streights I am now driven to, beget any violation of those, I hope it shall be imputed by God and Man to the authors of this Warre, and not to Mee, who have so earnestly laboured for the preservation of the Peace of this Kingdome.

When I willingly faile in these particulars, I will expect no Aid or relieſe from any man, or Protection from Heaven: But in this Resolution I hope for the cheerfull assistance of all good men, and am confident of Gods blessing.

His

76.

HIS MAIESTIES SPEECH TO THE Gentlemen, Clergy, Free-holders, and Inhabitants of the County of *Oxon*, at *Oxford Novemb.* 2. 1642.

GENTLEMEN,

THough you see My Army marching from hence, I do not intend to leave you, My Residence shall be so neere, that My Power shall have an influence upon this Place (of which I will besides take a particular care) for your protection; therefore feare not to expresse yonr affections to Me with that courage which becomes you, I know how, and by whom this Country hath been awed, but I hope no man shall have more power to fright you from your Loyalty, then I have to restore you to it; and I shall guesse by the Evidence of this day at your naturall dispositions. In assisting Me, you defend your selves, for beleive it, the sword which is now drawn against Me, will destroy you, if I defend you not. I have, and will venture my life for you, 'twill be a shame for you to venture nothing. whatsoever you shall be willing freely to contribute, I will take kindly of you. And whatsoeuer you shall lend Me, I will in the word of a King, se justly repayed to you.

I appoint the *Sherife* to receive such Money or Plate as you (Gentlemen) shall be willing to assist me with, and to returne their names to Me: and you of the Clergy shall repaire to Mr *Vice-Chancellour*, who shall do the like, and I expect that you should advance this Service thorowout the Country, and return your Collections suddenly to me by the hand of the *Sherife*. And I assure you I shall take especiall notice of such who shall be backward in this time of so visible necessity.

His

A Prayer of thanksgiving for His Majesties late victory over the Rebels.

O Thou God of Hosts, who goest forth with our Armies, and pleadest the cause of thine Anointed against them that strive with Him, we acknowledge with all lowlinesse of mind, that it is not our sword, nor the multitude of our Host that hath saved us, but it is thy Hand alone that hath dispos'd of Victory to thy servant the King, that hath covered his head in the day of battaile, and hath kept His Crowne from being throwne down to the ground. Not unto us therefore, not unto us, but unto thee, O God, do we give the praise, beseeching thee to accomplish the great worke thou hast begun for us, to continue the blessings of Good successe on the head of our Soveraigne, and on His Army, that the hapinesse thereof may flow from thence to the very skirts of His People; to continue the fear, & consternation which thou hast already cast upon the Hearts of those who have rebelliously risen up against Him, to enfeeble their strengths, to infatuate their Counsels, undeceive and disabuse the seduced part of them, that they may know, and feele, that to take up Arms against thy Vice-gerent, is to fight against heaven, that so by a timely and conscientious submission to the just Authority of him whom thou hast set over them, the effusion of more blood may be prevented, the peace of this distracted Kingdom setled, Faction may be cast out of the State, and Schisme out of the Church, to the advancement of thy Glory, the Kings Honour, and the Peoples good. Grant this, O God, for thy old mercies sake, which thou wert wont to show unto this Nation, that both Prince, and People may joyne in giving praise to thee, who livest And raignest world without end, *Amen*.

FINIS.